

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following at page 1, after the title and before line 1:

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

Please add the following at line 5:

2. Related Art

Please add the following at page 2, at line 29:

BRIEF SUMMARY

Please add the following at page 4, at line 29:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 16:

Figures 8A and 8B depicts a suite of BFTFMs of the type shown in Figure 7 partly populated with blown fibre tubes, and a view of the routes taken by the patching tubes within and between the BFTFMs;

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 19:

Figures 9A-I shows a typical build sequence of an exchange installation of the type as shown in Figure 3 above;

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 23:

Figures 11A to 11D illustrate the use of positive tube bend management in the BFTFMs;

Please add the following at page 5, at line 29:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, beginning at line 28:

The drawing ~~on the right~~ in Figure 8A depicts another view of a suite of BFTFs (14) partly populated with blown fibre patch tubes (17). This is a three-high build of line-side and equipment-side modules. As described elsewhere, the BFTFs perform a junctioning or distribution function to allow users to make connections between points in an exchange. The BFTFs include a patch panel (11) comprising patching tube connectors (13). In this embodiment, the ends of the patch tubes are push-fit into the receivers to define connection paths. In a preferred embodiment, the patching panel comprises 19 tube connectors across and 14 deep in a grid or matrix formation or array.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, beginning at line 14:

The schematic diagram ~~on the left~~ in Figure 8B shows the side view of the BFTF suite (shown on the right of the same page and discussed above), with details of the tube patching between the patching panels located on each BFTF. It can be seen that the patching tubes exit the connectors 13 downwards. In the suite on the lower level of the assembly, patch tube link the front and back (or, as shown, the left and right) of the suite. It can also be seen that the top right BFTF has been interconnected with the middle-left BFTF using a patching tube. Similarly, each of the middle tier of BFTFs is

connected to the lowest tier of the stack. Clearly the figure is merely illustrative and in general much higher densities of patch tube connection will be used in real life.

Please amend the paragraph at page 17, beginning at line 30:

Tube bend management apparatus can take the form of curved guides or mandrels – (e.g., 24 in Figures 9A-I) – around or against which the tubes are wrapped. The degree of curve depends on the exact type of cable tube being used but in the UK this would typically be a radius of about 50mm.

Please amend the title at page 21, before claim 1:

ClaimsWHAT IS CLAIMED IS